

FIRE FUNDS GONE, FOREMAN ACCUSED

George Ricardo, Jr., Most Popular Man in Hackensack Department, Charged with Forgery, Makes Denial.

HELD IN BAIL FOR JURY.

HACKENSACK, N. J., June 25.—Charged with forgery, George Ricardo, Jr., son of Fish and Game Warden Ricardo, has been held in \$500 bail for the Grand Jury of Bergen County. Ricardo for the past year has been in charge of the finances of the Relief Hook and Ladder Company of Hackensack. The accusation that he had misused the funds placed in his care and in order to do so had committed forgery came as a great shock to the many friends of the young man's family.

Ricardo's popularity in the company was attested at the last election, when he was re-elected foreman. Residing in Hackensack and being employed there, to him was intrusted the collection of the money due the company from the city for its services, the feed of its horses and their work on the public streets when not in the engine-house.

Checkers Made Payable. Ricardo had no power to draw checks, and in order that the money, properly collected, might be deposited to the credit of the company, the bank book of the treasurer, Conrad Wagner, was turned over to him so that he could deposit his collections. In addition to the checks made payable to merchants for feed bills were given to him to hand to the men to whom the company owed money.

A few weeks ago it was declared that the feed bills had not been paid although Mr. Wagner had made out checks for them. Then it was learned that the checks bearing the endorsement of the merchants were in existence. An investigation followed and Ricardo was told to have the bank book balanced, and he did so.

When this was checked up it is charged that \$300 due the company from the city had not been entered. At a meeting of the company it was decided to prosecute Ricardo and counsel was engaged. Justice Cummings issued a warrant and Ricardo was arrested. He asked for an examination and the date was set. When the hour arrived Ricardo failed to appear and he was rearrested and held on new bond for the Grand Jury, which meets in September.

Since the story of the forgery of the checks has become known it has been stated that Ricardo cashed them with friends and that the money thus obtained was used to play the races.

Ricardo Makes Denial.

Ricardo in answering these charges makes a general denial. He declares that the proceedings against him are largely due to ill-feeling and he contends that one-half the company are still his friends.

This ill-feeling, he says, caused him to waive a hearing before a Justice, as he felt sure those opposed to him would go to the Grand Jury anyhow.

Wanted the Matter Settled. Ricardo admits that he wrote the names of Holley and Smith and Corby and Thomas across the checks in question, but says he did so in the presence of a member of the auditing committee and adds that he thought in doing so he was destroying them.

He declares that his accounts are all correct and that an examination of the company's books will prove his assertion. Cashier Terhune, of the Hackensack Bank, says that the two checks were never presented for payment.

Brooklyn Boy Wins a Gold Medal. WORCESTER, Mass., June 25.—John J. Colligan, of Scranton, Pa., received the award for highest average and E. Ward McMahon, of Brooklyn, N. Y., the Flattery gold medal for philosophy at the commencement exercises of Holy Cross College yesterday.

GOT GATE RECEIPTS AND DISAPPEARED.

Ralph Schlessinger, an Inspector for the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, Missing with \$82.

Supt. S. W. Edwards, of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, has asked the police to help out his own detectives in the search for Ralph Schlessinger, a missing inspector.

Schlessinger was detailed to watch station agents and his reports resulted in many turnstile guardians being dismissed. Several days ago Schlessinger went to the station at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues and ordered the agent, Henry Gaters, to turn over his receipts to him. Gaters gave up \$82. Nothing has since been seen of Schlessinger. The employees demised on his recommendation are now applying for reinstatement.

FATHER HENDRICK TO GET THE MITRE.

Rochester Clergyman, Member of State Board of Regents, Named by Pope Leo.

ROCHESTER, June 25.—The Pope has ratified the appointment of the Rev. Thomas A. Hendrick, of Rochester, N. Y., to the Bishopric of Cebu, Philippine Islands, in succession to Monsignor Martin Garcia y Alcocer, at present Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Manila, the last Spanish Episcopal dignitary in the Philippine Islands.

Rev. Thomas A. Hendrick is one of the best-known clergymen in New York State. He is a member of the State Board of Regents, and has always been prominent in educational matters.

BOON TO THE CITY IN RAINY SPELL

Health Authorities Look Upon the Damp Weather as a Blessing and Believe It Cut Down Death Rate.

POSTPONES THE HOT WAVES.

Although the Number of Cases of Diphtheria Increased, Dr. Guilfoyle Asserts that the General Health Has Been Unusually Good.

Don't say anything unkind about the damp, raw weather that has been depressing New York for the past three weeks. It was a good thing, only people didn't know it.

President Lederle of the Board of Health said today that instead of being a cause of alarm he regarded the weather which caused so many kicks as a very good thing.

"Cool weather, even though accompanied by dampness, is preferable to the heat that is characteristic of this time of the year."

Statistics show that the death rate has been greatly decreased during the rainy season in comparison with the corresponding weeks of last year. "I don't know what to attribute it to unless it is the cold weather we have been having," said Dr. William H. Guilfoyle, of the Health Department. "I do know, and my observations are borne out by statistics, that if this weather continues I hope to show by our reports a saving of 1,000 lives up to the last of June. Last year was cool and our figure showed 900 fewer deaths over the record of 1902."

HEAT A DEADLY ENEMY.

"I mean by this that the hot weather is the deadliest enemy New York has and that the evil effects of dampness cannot begin to compare with the perils of hot weather. The illness that has resulted from the long period of wet weather has not been of a serious nature. Malaria and sore throat cases are not even reported to us, and these ailments, with rheumatism, are, I believe, the ones that the rainy spell has augmented, but the decrease in the death rate speaks most encouragingly for New York. In the week ending June 20, 1902, the number of deaths was 1,208. For the corresponding week of this year it was 1,073.

"The decrease in infant mortality is large, for children under one year of age are the ones who suffer most from hot weather. The great wave of summer complaints arising from high temperature has been put off and the children not only of the east side but of other localities have had an opportunity to gain just that much strength in the battle for existence."

"I can't see where there can be any complaint at all about the effects of the damp weather on the general health of New York's population. Respiratory diseases are the ones in which we would naturally expect to find an increase, but nothing of the sort has been reported except in the instance of diphtheria."

Diphtheria Cases Increase. "There certainly has been a great increase in the number of diphtheria cases reported to the Health Department. For the week ending June 20, 1902, there were 28 cases. This year the corresponding week shows the number to be 43. For the week ending June 14, 1902, there were 22 cases; this year the number is 44. For the week ending June 7, 1902, there were 30. In the first week of the damp weather this year the number was 43. In cases of chronic tuberculosis I have no doubt that the damp weather has hastened death in many instances, but when the general good of New York is taken into consideration the wet weather has been a good thing.

"Such indisposition as sore throats and colds is the result of carelessness in many cases from people sitting with wet feet. The conditions of the weather have no forbidding effects. The pools of water in the street and the constant drizzle have not spread disease. Instead of that the much despised rain has been a blessing."

"The death rate is the best way to judge of the health of a community, and when you consider that it has diminished from 17.35 to 15.59 it looks as though the rain wasn't so bad after all."

"For my part I should be glad to have more of the weather of the past three weeks. It depresses people, to be sure, but it postpones the great battle for human life which must begin as soon as the hot weather strikes New York."

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